



Reference No. 6.18

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, DECEMBER QUARTER 1973

Estimates of average weekly earnings are made each quarter in respect of civilian wage and salary earners in all industries combined. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included in the calculation.

2. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and some other bodies. These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of total employment in these industries, as published monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment*. Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector is approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings are estimated from other sources and are included in the calculations.

3. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in calculation of the averages.

4. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of **male units**, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings. Different ratios of female to male average earnings, based on information from the annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours, from a sample survey carried out in November 1969 and from other sources, are used for individual States. Ratios used for the current quarter are as follows : New South Wales (including the Australian Capital Territory) 60 per cent, Victoria 60, Queensland 56, South Australia (including the Northern Territory) 55, Western Australia 53 and Tasmania 57. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States, a separate ratio for Australia is not used, but the weighted average of the State ratios is approximately 58.5 per cent. Changes in these ratios are necessary from time to time to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in these ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; a one per cent rise in the ratio reduces average weekly earnings of \$120 by about 50 cents.

5. Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters. Allowance for these variations, and for recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates for Australia shown in the table. The seasonal adjustment factors were derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations had first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retains the effect of the major award, etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1973* (Reference No. 1.10), issued on 3 August 1973.

6. Estimates of average weekly earnings for each State and Australia for the period September quarter 1966 to December quarter 1973 are shown in the table on page 2.

NOTE. At the 1971 population census all trainee teachers were for the first time classified as not in the labour force. Previously those enrolled at government teachers colleges (and in some cases at other institutions also) had been included. Trainees affected by the reclassification are excluded, together with their allowances, from the calculation of average weekly earnings from September quarter 1971. The effect of their exclusion was to increase average earnings figures in all States by approximately 30 cents.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a)
($\$$)

Period	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	
							Original	Seasonally adjusted
1966-67	63.50	63.90	57.10	57.60	59.20	58.40	61.70	..
1967-68	67.00	67.60	60.20	61.10	63.90	61.90	65.30	..
1968-69	72.70	72.10	64.30	65.20	68.80	65.60	70.20	..
1969-70	78.80	78.10	69.20	70.90	75.50	70.70	76.10	..
1970-71	87.70	86.10	77.70	78.20	84.80	78.40	84.50	..
1971-72 (d)	96.50	93.60	86.90	86.70	93.60	86.90	93.00	..
1972-73	r105.20	r102.50	96.90	94.30	99.00	94.50	101.50	..
1966 -								
Sept. qtr	62.40	63.20	56.30	57.30	59.10	56.60	60.90	60.70
Dec. qtr	64.60	65.50	59.00	58.40	60.40	60.30	63.10	61.10
1967 -								
Mar. qtr	61.30	60.70	54.50	56.00	57.50	56.70	59.30	62.00
June qtr	65.40	66.00	58.60	58.60	59.90	60.00	63.50	63.20
Sept. qtr	65.70	66.80	59.10	60.30	62.20	60.20	64.20	64.30
Dec. qtr	68.10	69.80	62.30	62.00	64.80	64.30	66.90	64.90
1968 -								
Mar. qtr	65.20	64.40	57.40	59.60	62.40	60.10	63.10	65.40
June qtr	69.00	69.30	61.80	62.20	66.40	63.10	67.10	66.80
Sept. qtr	69.70	69.60	61.80	63.70	66.90	62.80	67.60	67.80
Dec. qtr	75.30	74.00	66.10	66.60	69.90	68.40	72.30	69.80
1969 -								
Mar. qtr	70.50	70.30	61.90	63.80	67.30	63.50	68.30	71.60
June qtr	75.20	74.60	67.30	66.60	71.20	67.50	72.60	72.20
Sept. qtr	76.20	76.00	67.60	69.30	73.30	68.80	73.90	73.70
Dec. qtr	81.60	80.80	71.50	72.90	78.00	73.90	78.70	75.10
1970 -								
Mar. qtr	74.90	74.30	65.90	68.10	72.70	66.10	72.50	76.90
June qtr	82.30	81.10	71.90	73.50	78.00	74.10	79.10	78.80
Sept. qtr	83.50	82.10	73.90	76.10	80.50	74.20	80.70	80.10
Dec. qtr	89.70	87.50	79.10	78.70	85.70	80.30	86.10	82.00
1971 -								
Mar. qtr	84.70	83.40	75.70	76.20	82.70	74.40	81.80	86.90
June qtr	92.90	91.20	82.40	82.00	89.80	84.50	89.50	88.30
Sept. qtr (d)	92.70	91.30	83.10	85.00	92.90	82.10	90.00	90.20
Dec. qtr	100.10	96.60	89.30	88.80	96.30	90.00	96.00	91.70
1972 -								
Mar. qtr	92.70	88.90	84.00	83.40	91.00	83.70	89.20	93.30
June qtr	100.60	97.40	91.40	89.70	94.40	91.30	96.70	95.20
Sept. qtr	99.40	99.00	92.60	89.80	95.30	90.30	96.80	98.10
Dec. qtr	108.10	105.50	98.70	96.20	99.30	98.80	104.10	100.00
1973 -								
Mar. qtr	100.90	97.50	92.90	91.10	96.40	87.60	97.20	102.20
June qtr	r112.20	107.90	103.50	100.00	104.90	100.90	r107.80	r106.20
Sept. qtr	r112.60	r112.50	r104.40	r105.20	r108.70	r101.70	110.20	111.80
Dec. qtr	124.00	120.90	114.10	113.80	115.00	(e)116.10	119.90	(f)115.20

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 2 to 4 on page 1. (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the Northern Territory. (d) See NOTE above. (e) Affected by increased holiday prepayments to teachers and a retrospective State Public Service award, as well as normal seasonal influences. (f) In the next issue revised seasonally-adjusted series will be published following annual re-analysis, and small changes in seasonality may become evident reflecting in part extensions of annual leave and leave loadings in 1973. r - revised.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr A. N. Gray on 63 9111 extension 2350 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.